UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/22259
23 February 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In pursuance of the provisions of paragraph 4 of the Security Council resolution 678 (1990) concerning the military operations and in implementation of the second paragraph of the aforementioned resolution, I have the pleasure to transmit to you, on behalf of my Government, an additional report on the military operations for the liberation of the State of Kuwait during the period from 10 February to 18 February 1991.

I would be grateful if you would kindly have this report circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir S. SHIHABI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Report on military operations to liberate Kuwait
(10-18 February 1991)

The objective of the Royal Saudi Forces has always been to implement the Security Council resolutions concerning the liberation of fraternal Kuwait. Military objectives during the fourth week of operations were to weaken the Iraqi military machine (air defence systems, airfields, ammunition depots, aircraft and other items used for military purposes). It was once again emphasized to Saudi pilots that they should avoid civilian targets and populated areas in order not to inflict harm on civilians or civilian installations.

1. Military operations

Air

The Royal Saudi Air Force carried out 1,209 sorties against targets inside Iraqi and Kuwaiti territory.

Sea

Saudi Arabian forces took part in naval operations, the total number of naval aircraft sorties from their vessels amounting to 61. They also exploded 11 mines.

Land

The Saudi Arabian ground forces carried out reconnaissance operations involving arms fire inside the Kuwaiti theatre. There were clashes with forward enemy units involving direct fire by artillery, rocket-launchers and other arms, while mopping-up operations continued in the town of Khafji.

The past week saw a major increase in clashes along the Saudi/Kuwaiti border and inside Kuwait itself, for the purpose of inflicting as much damage as possible on the Iraqi ground forces stationed in the territory, besides the continuation of aerial bombardment operations inside Iraq and Kuwait.

2. Casualties

The Iraqi aggressors fired four Scud missiles as follows: one missile at Riyadh on Monday, 27 Rajab A.H. 1411 (11 February A.D. 1991), one missile at Jubail on Thursday, 30 Rajab A.H. 1411 (14 February A.D. 1991), and two missiles at Hafr al-Batin on Friday, 1 Sha'ban A.H. 1411 (15 February A.D. 1991), as a result of which four people suffered various injuries. Casualties resulting from air operations amounted to 10 killed and 13 wounded in the mopping-up operation in Khafji.

3. Material damage

Three F-15 and F-5 aircraft were lost and one workshop annex building was destroyed in Hafr al-Batin.

4. Refugees and prisoners of war

The total number of Iraqi refugees fleeing as a result of their dissatisfaction with the war of aggression launched by the Iraqi regime has risen to 26 officers and 394 others. Prisoners of war number 61 officers and 782 others, all of whom are receiving full care and attention and being treated in accordance with the precepts of Islamic law and the third Geneva Convention of 1949. This treatment has been commended by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team. It is also a major item of concern for the commander of the joint forces and the operational theatre, His Royal Highness General Prince Khalid Bin Sultan Bin Abdul-Aziz, who is monitoring their conditions weekly together with the regional representative of ICRC in the Arabian peninsula, to provide assurance that they are receiving proper care and attention.

5. The latest Iraqi initiative

In the course of the last week, Iraq announced an initiative comprising the implementation of Security Council resolution 660 (1990) and including - according to its claim - the subject of withdrawal. However, the Iraqis hedged the initiative with conditions, including compensation for their war losses and the solution of Middle East problems, particularly the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Syrian presence in Lebanon, etc. Since the statement by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council included conditions which were incompatible with the sense and content of Arab, Islamic and international resolutions, in addition to new conditions which did not demonstrate any serious and sincere desire on the part of Iraq to implement the resolutions adopted in that connection, the Government of Saudi Arabia has already stated its categorical rejection of each and every detail of the statement issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council.